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News Release

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6 sentenced for distributing methamphetamine

A 27-year-old Rochester woman was sentenced to 87 months in prison last week for her role in a methamphetamine distribution operation in southern Minnesota.

United States District Court Judge Joan Ericksen also sentenced Nicole Angela Davis to three years of supervised release June 5 in Minneapolis on one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. Davis was one of 10 defendants indicted March 13, 2007, and she pleaded guilty on July 18, 2007.

Five defendants have already been sentenced. Jayson Lee Hatton, 38, Rochester, was sentenced to 32 months in prison and five years of supervised release March 27 on one count of conspiracy. Jenny Lynn Harris, Albert Lea, was sentenced to 60 months in prison and three years of supervised release April 18 on one count of interstate travel in aid of unlawful activity. Amy Marie McAlister, 32, Hollandale, was sentenced to 60 months and five years of supervised release March 27 on one count of conspiracy. Gregory Jon Stout, 46, Hollandale, was sentenced to 262 months and 10 years of supervised release March 27 on one count of conspiracy. Mona Lisa Veraza, 38, Austin, was sentenced to 60 months and three years of supervised release March 28 on one count of conspiracy. The five defendants pleaded guilty in 2007.

According to their respective plea agreements, Davis admitted that between March 1, 2006, and Dec. 31, 2006, she, Hatton, Veraza and others knowingly and intentionally conspired to possess with intent to distribute more than 5,000 grams (11 pounds) but less than 15,000 grams (33 pounds) of methamphetamine. Methamphetamine is a highly addictive and dangerous drug.

Davis agreed that she received at least 11 pounds of methamphetamine, which she distributed to others in exchange for money, vehicles and other items. She was named in a Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) affidavit selling methamphetamine, and keeping some methamphetamine in an Austin storage locker.

Harris admitted that on Oct. 8, 2006, she traveled to and from Arizona with the intent to promote and facilitate the aiding and abetting the possession with intent to distribute 500 or more

grams of methamphetamine. She agreed that prior to Oct. 8 Stout requested that she accompany him and offered to pay her \$1,500 to drive him to Arizona because Harris had a driver's license. Harris also admitted that she knew Stout was a significant methamphetamine dealer in and around Hollandale, Minn.

Stout also agreed to the details regarding the Arizona trip, adding that he knew the trip was drug related and solicited Harris to join him.

After staying at a hotel in Arizona, their vehicle was taken by unknown people, who loaded it with approximately 10 pounds of methamphetamine and returned it. After it was returned, Harris and Stout drove back to Minnesota. Harris was dropped off and the vehicle was later stopped and seized by authorities. During a search of the vehicle, police recovered more than 1,500 grams of methamphetamine.

Hatton also admitted that from March 1, 2006, to Dec. 31, 2006, he, Davis, Veraza and others did knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute at least 9 pounds of methamphetamine.

Veraza also agreed that she is responsible for 786.71 grams of methamphetamine found in her residence during an executed search warrant.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office, the BCA, the Southeastern Minnesota Narcotics and Gang Task Force, and the police departments of Austin and Rochester. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tracy L. Perzel.